

Remarks by Richard E. Bonewits, former long-time
Chairman of the Greater Maple Valley
Unincorporated Area Council to King County
Growth Management Planning Council September
21, 2011.

There are approximately 130,000 living in the unincorporated portions of King County. Citizen survey after survey in the Greater Maple Valley Area of unincorporated King County has shown that rural citizens live in the Rural Area because they choose to live there and they do not favor incorporation. Overwhelmingly they want urban entities to live within their corporate limits and keep their infrastructure needs within their assigned boundaries and pay for their entire present and future cost. This includes schools, parks, sewage treatment and disposal facilities, storm water retention ponds and road improvements. It takes no imagination to recognize that these are all non-tax bearing facilities that are intended to shift millions of dollars of costs to the Rural Area citizens and the County.

The County needs to comply with one of its key roles as defined by the State Constitution and Statutes, which is to act as the local government of the unincorporated area. The County should vote to reject all proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Planning Policies that allow urban driven facilities in the rural area – as they all diminish the rural character, lead to urban creep from one bedroom community to another and increase the number of people leaving the urban islands each day to go to their work, schools and work, and decrease County revenue. **In only very few instances do suburban cities have the potential to ever provide sufficient employment for the population that migrates to their community.**

Thank you.

Dick